THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The US has stated that the purpose of the visit of the US President to India from March 20, 2000 is to pave the way for a qualitatively new relationship. President Clinton stated on 1st February 2000, I'm going because it's the biggest democracy in the world and I think we have not been working with them enough.

(c) Both sides agree that the visit of the US President to India provides an opportunity to strengthen mutual understanding on political and security matters and intensify mutually beneficial co-operation in trade and investment, science and technology, energy and environment, health, education and culture, counter-terrorism and narcotics control.

Preconditions attached to Clinton's visit

2349. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether preceding the US President's visit to New Delhi, Washington has been making unreasonable demands and using it as an instrument of pressure on India;

(b) if so, what pressures have been put up on India and what demands have been made on India, on the eve of US president's visit; and

(c) whether commitment for signing of Non-Proliferation Treaty and CTBT have been set as conditions precedent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The US President is scheduled to visit India for five days from 20th March 2000. Both sides agree that the objective of the visit of the US President to India is to pave the way for a qualitatively new, broad-based and forward-looking relationship.

(c) The US has conveyed no pre-conditions for the visit of the US President to India.

Status of developing super computer of C-DAC, Pune

2350. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large sum of money has been spent at Center for Development of Advanced Computing C-DAC Pune, for developing super computer; and